

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, which are responsive to the second Official Action mailed on July 31, 2003. In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 18-81. Claims 18-81 remain pending in the present application. The independent claims are Claims 18, 31, 41, 48, 54, 66, 70, 73, 76, and 79.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 41, 73, and 76 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by a collection of Northwest Airlines press releases dated October 3-12, 1999 and July 17, 2000 ("Northwest reference"). The Applicants respectfully offer remarks to traverse these pending rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the attached Supplemental Declaration of Prior Invention Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131 executed on October 29 and 30, 2003 ("Supplemental Declaration") establishes that the Applicants conceived the subject matter of rejected independent Claims 41, 73, and 76 prior to the earliest date of the Northwest reference. The Supplemental Declaration further establishes that the Applicants diligently worked to reduced the subject matter of Claims 41, 73, and 76 to practice. The Supplemental Declaration contains the same Exhibits as the Declaration of Prior Invention Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131 executed on May 5, 2003 ("Declaration") and submitted in connection with the Response to the First Official Action. The primary difference is that the Supplemental Declaration establishes an earlier date of conception, namely prior to October 3, 1999.

The Examiner also objects to the Declaration submitted in response to the first Official Action alleging that "check-in information [is] not disclosed in [the] declaration materials." Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's objection to the declaration materials. Claims 41, 73, and 76 do not refer to "check-in information." Furthermore, support for each of the recitations of Claims 41, 73, and 76 can be found at several places in the declaration materials.

Claim 41 describes a method for providing passenger seating information in a terminal. The method includes receiving seating information for a passenger at a computing system and displaying that passenger's seating information on an electronic display. Evidence indicating the conception and reduction to practice of the invention described in Claim 41 is found in Exhibit C

of the Declaration, wherein it states “[t]he list will include as a minimum: Passenger Name; Standby classification (First/ Business/ Coach cabin, Upgrade, No Seat Available).” The standby classification includes several examples of passenger-specific seating information. Additional support for the display of seating information is found in Exhibit F, referring to “Seating Configuration,” and the Upgrade and Standby displays illustrated in Exhibit G.

Claim 73 recites a method for displaying passenger upgrade information. The method includes receiving and displaying passenger upgrade information, approving an upgrade, and prompting the approved passenger to board. The display screens in Exhibit G illustrate the display of upgrade and standby lists. Exhibit G also describes displaying a “Cleared Upgrades” screen to indicate when the passenger can proceed to the boarding door.

Claim 76 defines a method for displaying passenger seating information at a designated time prior to departure. As discussed in connection with Claim 41, Exhibits C, F, and G to the Declaration provide evidence of displaying seating information for the passenger. Furthermore, Exhibit D shows the different modes of the display screen, indicating that seating information can be displayed at a particular time before departure.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Supplemental Declaration overcomes the rejection of independent Claims 41, 73, and 76 based on the Northwest reference.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 18, 31, 54, 66, and 79 as rendered obvious by the combination of the Northwest reference and U.S. Patent No. 5,710,887 to Chelliah et al. (the “Chelliah patent”). The Examiner also rejected independent Claims 48 and 70 as obvious in view of the Northwest reference. Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 18, 31, 48, 54, 66, 70, and 79 is overcome by the Supplemental Declaration. The Supplemental Declaration establishes that the subject matter of these claims was conceived prior to the earliest date of the Northwest reference and was diligently reduced practice.

The Examiner objected to the Declaration submitted in response to the first Official Action alleging that “check-in information [is] not disclosed in [the] declaration materials.” Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s objection to the declaration materials. Claims 18, 31, 48, 54, 66, 70, and 79 do not refer to “check-in information.” Furthermore, support for

each of the recitations of Claims 18, 31, 48, 54, 66, 70, and 79 can be found at several places in the declaration materials.

Claims 18 and 66 recite a method for displaying passenger-specific information including one of passenger seating information, passenger standby status, or passenger upgrade status. Exhibits C and D describe displaying passenger seating information, passenger standby status, and passenger upgrade status. Exhibit G illustrates screen displays with passenger seating information, passenger standby status, and passenger upgrade status.

Claim 31 defines the invention as a method for displaying boarding information that can include passenger seating information, standby status, upgrade status, passenger connection information, and passenger-specific advertising. Exhibits C, D, and G describe displaying passenger seating information, passenger standby status, and passenger upgrade status. Exhibit E describes displaying passenger connection information. Exhibit A provides advertising as an example of the content that can be displayed using the invention.

Claim 48 describes a method for displaying standby information for a passenger. Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, and F all describe displaying standby information. Exhibit G illustrates various screen displays that contain standby information for particular passengers.

Claims 54 and 79 recite systems for displaying passenger-specific information in preparation for boarding. In both claims, a remote computing system receives passenger-specific information which is then rendered on an electronic display. Exhibits A through G all describe systems for displaying passenger-specific information in connection with a boarding process.

Claim 66 defines a method for transmitting and displaying passenger seating information, passenger standby status, or passenger upgrade status without input from the passengers. Exhibits C, D, and G describe displaying passenger seating information, passenger standby status, and passenger upgrade status. None of the exhibits refer to or require receiving passenger input in connection with displaying the passenger-specific information.

Claim 70 describes a method for transmitting and displaying passenger-specific information in connection with a boarding process. If a passenger is cleared for boarding, a prompt is displayed and the passenger can proceed to the boarding door. Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F, and G all describe transmitting and displaying passenger-specific information. Exhibits C and G describe displaying passenger names that have cleared the standby list. Exhibit G also

describes using a reading device positioned at the door. As the inventors attest, the use of reading devices at departure gates was well-known prior to October 1999. Supplemental Declaration ¶ 15.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Supplemental Declaration overcomes the rejection of independent Claims 18, 31, 48, 54, 66, 70, and 79.

III. Dependent Claim Rejections

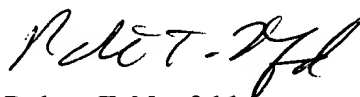
If an independent claim is allowable, then the claims dependent thereon should also be allowable because they add limitations to the independent claim. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1599 (Fed. Cir. 1988). In view of the foregoing remarks with respect to independent Claims 18, 31, 41, 48, 54, 66, 70, 73, 76, and 79, the Applicants respectfully submit that each dependent claim is patentable over the combinations of the cited patents. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of dependent Claims 19-30, 32-40, 42-47, 49-53, 55-65, 67-69, 71, 72, 74, 75, 77, 78, 80, and 81.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action mailed on July 31, 2003. The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Oullette for considering these remarks. The Applicants have submitted remarks and the Supplemental Declaration to traverse the rejections of Claims 18-81. The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

An early notice of allowance is hereby courteously solicited. If any other issues remaining in this application may be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (404) 572-3509.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert T. Neufeld
Reg. No. 48,394

Serial No.: 09/708,890

King & Spalding
45th Floor
191 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404.572.4600
K&S Docket: 16600.105005